

LISTING OF CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-41 (Canceled)

42. (Currently Amended) A machine-implemented method comprising:

~~storing professional license status information for a plurality of users;~~
~~an authentication service receiving, at an authentication service,~~ digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party;

verifying that the digital credential information is valid using the professional license status information that has been stored for a plurality of users;

providing verification information indicative of the a valid professional license status of the first user from the authentication service to the relying party; and

providing information from the authentication service to the first user, the information indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information from the relying party, wherein the relying party is distinct from the first user.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein providing information to the first user comprises providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein:

the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and

the method further comprises, prior to providing the verification information to the relying party, verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, wherein:

the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and

the method further comprises verifying the registration information with the registration authority.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising:

storing access information associated with the relying party, the access information including information indicative of the providing the verification information; and providing the access information to the relying party.

47. (Canceled)

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 42, ~~wherein the providing the verification information to the relying party further comprises comprising~~ providing information indicative of a failure to authenticate the digital credential information associated with the first user to a second relying party.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 42, further comprising at least one of the relying party and the authentication service issuing a challenge in response to receiving digital credential information associated with the first user.

50. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a machine-readable medium embodying information indicative of instructions that when performed by one or more machines of an authentication service result in operations comprising:

~~storing professional license status information for a plurality of users;~~

~~an authentication service receiving, at the authentication service,~~ digital credential information associated with a first user from a relying party;

verifying that the digital credential information is valid using ~~the~~ professional license status information that has been stored for a plurality of users;

providing verification information indicative of the a valid professional license status of the first user from the authentication service to the relying party; and

providing information from the authentication service to the first user, the information indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information from the relying party, wherein the relying party is distinct from the first user.

51. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50, wherein providing information to the first user comprises providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

52. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50,
wherein:

the professional license status information comprises
registration information indicative of a professional license
registration status with a registration authority ; and

the operations further comprise, prior to providing the
verification information to the relying party, verifying the
registration information with the registration authority.

53. (Previously Presented) The article of claim 50,
wherein:

the professional license status information comprises
registration information indicative of a professional license
registration status with a registration authority; and

the operations further comprise verifying the registration
information with the registration authority.

54. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 50, wherein
the operations further comprise:

storing access information associated with the relying
party, the access information including information indicative
of the providing of the verification information; and
providing the access information to the relying party.

55. (Canceled)

56. (Currently Amended) The article of claim 50, wherein
~~providing verification information to the relying party the~~
operations further comprises comprise providing information
indicative of a failure to authenticate the digital credential
information associated with the first user to a second relying
party.

57. (Canceled)

58. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:
storage configured to store professional license status
information for a plurality of users; and
an authentication ~~server service~~ configured to:
receive digital credential information associated with
a first user from a relying party;
verify the digital credential information using the
professional license status information;
provide verification information indicative of the a
valid professional license status of the first user to the
relying party; and
provide information to the first user, the information
indicative of receipt of valid digital credential information
associated with the first user from the relying party,
wherein the relying party is distinct from the first user.

59. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server service is configured to provide information to the first user at least by providing access to an activity log associated with the first user.

60. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication information comprises registration information indicative of a registration status with a registration authority, and wherein the authentication server service is further configured to:

verify the registration information with the registration authority prior to providing the verification information to the relying party.

61. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 58, wherein:
the professional license status information comprises registration information indicative of a professional license registration status with a registration authority; and
the authentication server service is further configured to verify the registration information with the registration authority.

62. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server is further configured to:

store access information associated with the relying party, the access information including information indicative of the providing the verification information; and

provide the access information to the relying party.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server service is further configured to provide ~~verification information to the relying party at least by providing~~ information indicative of a failure to authenticate the digital credential information associated with the first user to a second relying party.

65. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server service is further configured to issue a challenge in response to receiving digital credential information associated with the first user.

66. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising receiving, at the relying party, the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

67. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the information is provided from the authentication service to the first user in response to receipt of the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

68. (New) The article of claim 50, wherein the information is provided from the authentication service to the first user in response to receipt of the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

69. (New) The system of claim 58, wherein the authentication server is configured to provide the information in response to receipt of the valid digital credential information from an unauthorized user.

70. (New) The system of claim 58, further comprising a relying party configured to receive the digital credential information associated with the first user and relay it to the authentication service.